



**Office of the Secretary of the State**

State of Connecticut

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**Stephanie Thomas**

Secretary of the State

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Deputy Secretary of the State

**Connecticut General Assembly  
Education Committee  
Public Hearing**

**March 1, 2023**

**TESTIMONY OF  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE STEPHANIE THOMAS REGARDING:**

- ⦿ **H.B. No. 6760, AN ACT CONCERNING CIVICS EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY.**

Thank you Co-Chairs McCrory and Currey, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

It is our duty to the next generations to ensure we are providing them with the tools they need to become active members of their communities. There is no better way to accomplish this than ensuring that the students in our public schools are receiving a robust civics education curriculum. While there are currently civics requirements in place, there is always the ability to do better for our students.

The Office of the Secretary of the State supports the creation of a task force to study and develop strategies to improve how public schools provide instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy and American government to students.

This legislation would establish the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force to review existing curricula and the high school graduation requirements, receive recommendations from educators, administrators and the public, review best practices, and explore the feasibility of establishing public and private partnerships to fund and support enhancements to such instruction. Additionally, I'd like to extend my gratitude to the drafters of this bill for including my office, or its designee, on the task force.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to any questions you may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" being more legible than the last name "Thomas".

Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State of Connecticut